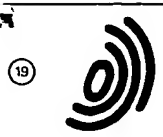


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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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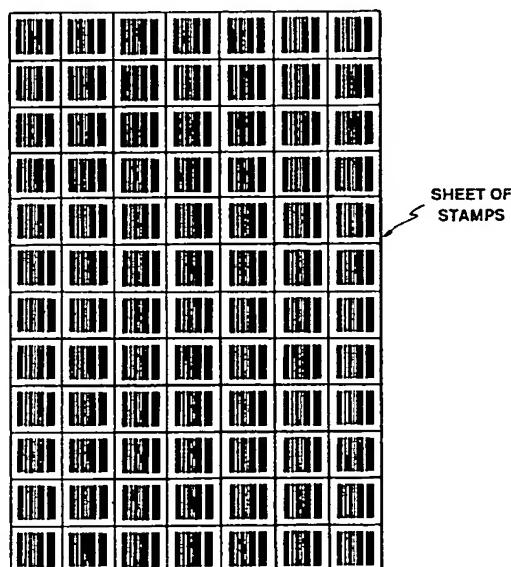
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54 Method of identifying users of coupons.

57 A method of identifying users of coupons includes marking a set of stamps with a code that identifies a particular user. The stamps are then distributed to the user identified by the code, and the user is instructed to secure a stamp on each coupon the user redeems when making purchases. The code is then read and entered into a database along with the identity of the item purchased.

**FIG.1**



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European Patent  
Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 10 7388

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT  |   |   |  |
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| Category   | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages   | Relevant to claim   | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)        |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims   |   |   |  |
| Place of search<br>THE HAGUE   |   | Date of completion of the search<br>27 JULY 1993  | Examiner<br>GUIVOL O.                                |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS  |   |   |  |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another<br>document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document |   | T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or<br>after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>-----<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding<br>document |  |